MONTEREY NEWS

February 2013
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The Town

by Susan Gallant

During the month of January, the Select Board has been kept busy with more than its share of administrative tasks, including interviewing six candidates for the town accountant position and finalizing the details of the employee compensation handbook. With so many issues still up in the air, this town report is leaner than usual.

Fire Department Hot Topics

Shawn Tryon, Monterey's fire chief, dropped by the January 7th Select Board meeting to discuss the activity the fire department is typically called upon to do and to look at upcoming expenses.

In response to Shawn's report that medical calls outnumber fire-related calls, the question of whether Monterey should do more to attract EMTs (emergency medical technicians) was raised. According to Shawn, Monterey is a first-responder town, rather than an EMT-based town, though Monterey does have one EMT in its fire department. Although there's little difference between a first responder's and an EMT's abilities, a number of requirements and regulations must be met to become an EMT-based town. So for the foreseeable future, Monterey will remain a first responder.

Moving on to capital expenses, Shawn anticipated that Engine No. 1, currently being used as a backup truck, will need to be replaced in 2016 at a projected cost of $625,000. The trade-in value of the old engine is estimated at somewhere between $60,000 and $70,000. The older set of jaws, chain saws, and the like, will go up for auction. Otherwise, they will be sold for scrap. A more pressing need is replacing the air packs (the air tanks that fire fighters strap on when fighting a blaze), which will cost about $50,000.

The Select Board commended Shawn for a good job managing a well-maintained department and keeping morale up. This may have prompted Shawn to discuss his own compensation. As fire chief, Shawn receives a salary of $200 a month. With the time he spends on administrative responsibilities, maintenance, and training, he figures that comes out to about $7 a day, not including the compensation he gets each time he goes out on a call. He considers a salary of $600 a month to be more in keeping with his responsibilities, and he would also like to see the entire department receive a raise as well.

One other expense anticipated in the

(l.) William and Agnes Gould, founders of Gould Farm, on their wedding day, 1914. (r.) Kitchen scene at Gould Farm. Photos are from Gould Farm's Achival Exhibit in the Knox Gallery of the Monterey Library, part of the Farm's centennial year celebration. The exhibit will be on display through February 20. (Photos courtesy Gould Farm.)

coming year is replacing the department's airboat, which has been requiring costly repairs and, as it turns out, is not maneuverable on ice. Initially Shawn requested the replacement be a Zodiac equipped with a motor, which would cost around $20,000. But after conferring with Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, another proposal was put to the Select Board: to purchase a boat for use by both the fire and police departments. This new boat would be somewhat larger than one used solely by the fire department and should cost no more than $30,000. The boat would be trailered and stored at the fire department so that both departments would have access to it. This item will be on the May annual town meeting warrant for the voters to decide.

Town Clerk Resigning

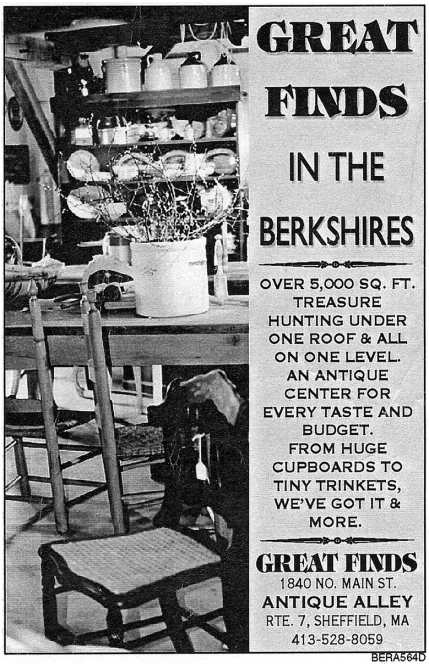
On January 14, Town Clerk Deborah Mielke, accompanied by the former town clerk, Linda Thorpe, announced that, after much deliberation and soul searching, she will be resigning her position as town clerk due to upcoming family obligations. Her resignation will be effective April 1. Linda Thorpe has agreed to step in and handle the annual town meeting and subsequent elections. The Select Board discussed the possibility of making the position an appointed one, rather than an elected office, which could potentially open up the position to a greater number of qualified candidates. Discussions about this matter will continue over the coming months. But for now, those who are interested in being Monterey's town clerk and completing the remaining two years of the three-year term should make their interest known.

Police Report

Gareth Backhaus, Monterey's chief of police, joined the January 14 meeting to report on activity since December 13:

- Domestic call on Pixley Rd.
- Medical call on Main Rd.
- Mutual aid call with Great Barrington regarding a Monterey resident.
- Fire alarms on New Marlborough and Main Rds.
- Motor vehicle lockout.
- Assisted state police with a disabled motor vehicle on the Tyringham border.
- Disabled motor vehicles on Pixley and on Corashire Rds.
- Well-being check on Laurel Banks Rd.
- Two calls about an open burn on Beartown Mountain Rd.
- Assisted with a beeping carbon-dioxide detector.
- False alarm on Art School Rd.
- Lockout on Main Rd.
- Motor-vehicle accidents on Bidwell and Main Rds. and on Main Rd. during the storm.

Select Board Chair Scott Jenssen mentioned that he received several calls complaining about the inappropriate use of one of Monterey's cruisers, which was parked at a package store in Great Barrington. Chief Backhaus explained that the officer was on official business and the other cruiser was in the shop. It was agreed that misunderstandings occur when details of a situation are not readily apparent.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The Case of the Missing Report

On January 14 members of the Prudential Committee of Lake Buel, namely chairperson Paula Hatch and Monterey representative David Logan, joined the Select Board meeting, engineering report in hand! The report, conducted by C. T. Male, though detailed, does not provide a definitive solution to the flooding problem, primarily because it's difficult to speculate if just one action—removing the woody debris—will completely solve the problem.

Paula also pointed out that the Prudential Committee's purview is limited to preserving the lake for recreational purposes, and the special act that created the committee mentions nothing about flood control. Nevertheless, the Prudential Committee is willing to help in any way it can and to participate in future meetings and conference calls. Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe will be making copies of the report for the Select Board as well as for other interested parties. So the mystery of the missing report is solved. Now on to a larger and more frightening challenge: wading through the red tape and legalities of working with state agencies and officials to get in the river to do the work.

It May Be the Fever Talking . . .

Scott Jenssen braved yucky weather and ill health to join the Select Board meeting briefly on January 28 to announce that he would be running for another term as Select Board member. Scott, who is currently chair of the select board, may have been delirious with fever, so we'll check back with him once he seems more clear-headed to confirm his intentions. ॐ

After last year's warm-out due to mild weather, the Monterey pick-up hockey season has returned. Informal, soft-puck adult games are played Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7 pm and Sunday mornings at 9 am at the Monterey indoor rink behind the fire station. The free activity is open to all adult players. Free youth hockey clinics and games for all levels are held Saturday mornings 9–10:30. For more info, contact sgraves8@yahoo.com. (Photo by Steve Graves.)

Historian Bernard Drew at Feb. 20th Community Potluck

Ed Stockman, the speaker at the January Potluck, was very informative and actually frightening about genetically modified organisms in our food supply; we were all left with a sense of urgency to check our cabinets and change the way we shop for food. Many thanks to Ed for opening our eyes to the need to have truth-in-labeling regarding GMOs; it is bound to be a very politicized process.

For the February Potluck, we have well-known local historian Bernard Drew, whose new book is *Henry Knox and the Revolutionary War Trail in Western Massachusetts* (McFarland, 2012). He stated that for our talk, he'd like to concentrate on "Monterey was settled because the king of England wanted a war road." He will discuss travel in the time of King Philip's War, the French and Indian War, the Revolution, and Shay's Rebellion.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 pm on Wednesday, February 20. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce

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Planning Board Proposes Regulations for Solar Power Installations

The Monterey Planning Board has been working on a solar-power zoning bylaw and will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 14, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall. You can help the Planning Board (and the town) by attending the hearing to critique the zoning bylaw proposal. Your input will allow the Planning Board to make any important changes to the bylaw before presenting the proposal at the annual town meeting in May.

Not unlike the laws around telecommunications, there are both federal and state laws supporting solar installations. Massachusetts General Law states, "No zoning ordinance or bylaw shall prohibit or unreasonably regulate the installation of solar energy systems." Given the NIMBY-proof support of the law, and given that the towns surrounding Monterey (Great Barrington and Otis) have had proposals from solar energy companies, the Planning Board decided to create a bylaw that seeks to reasonably regulate solar power installations. As a board we believe that most people in Monterey support and want to encourage renewable energy (not that it matters since the government makes it mandatory). The Planning Board also works from the perspective that we in Monterey love the natural beauty and the rural quality of our town and want to preserve it.

The Planning Board has created a solar power bylaw that takes into consideration the fact that most of us in Monterey live in the Agricultural/Residential District. We have no industrial zone where it might be more appropriate to site technologies such as telecommunications towers or solar power installations. The board has worked to create a bylaw that assumes that any of us could live next to a solar installation and strives to minimize the effects. Items covered in the solar power bylaw include, among other things, setbacks that are sensitive to abutting residences, screening and fencing requirements, and proximity to historic or archaeological areas. There is a lot to review and we would benefit from your input. Please come to the hearing on March 14.

—Maggie Leonard, Co-Chair
Monterey Planning Board

Please Fill Out Health Survey

The Monterey Board of Health has been asked by the Select Board to gather information about the health of town residents to help determine if there are any unmet healthcare needs. The Board of Health is asking you to please devote a few minutes of your time to complete this BRIEF survey. YOUR response is very important. Additional comments are also very helpful. The survey can be found at www.montereyma.gov by clicking on the green banner with the flashing arrows or by clicking the survey link on the Town of Monterey Town Hall Facebook page. If you do not have access to a computer, hard copies are availanle at the Monterey Library.

If you have questions about this survey please call me at the Town Hall, 528-1443 x111, or email me at townmont@verizon.net .

Responses are needed by February 15. Do not pass on this valuable opportunity to assist the town to better serve its residents. All answers are confidential.

—Melissa Noe
Inter-Departmental Secretary,
Town of Monterey

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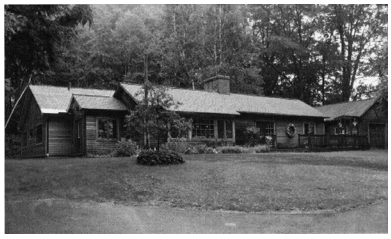

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Kate Basler and the Monterey Kindergartners at Monterey Library. (Photo by Lynn Webster.)

Monterey School Notes

The Monterey School has had a fantastic fall! We have eleven children in the school this year, three Early Kindergartners and eight Kindergartners. One of the things that makes our school so special is that we have so many nice people in Monterey who offer their time and talents to the school. Here you can see Kate Basler, who taught Kindergarten in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for many years. She meets us at the library a couple of times a month to read to the children. She has an amazing ability to pick out books, and we always enjoy our visits to the library. We also got to see so many townspeople last Halloween when we trick-or-treated through town. We stopped at the firehouse, the town hall, the post office, the general store and the library, as well as at the houses of a couple of family members. We also went on a great field trip to the firehouse.

Thanks to everyone who has helped out with our school, and thanks for all the friendly waves and smiles we see when we are walking through town!

—Lynn Webster

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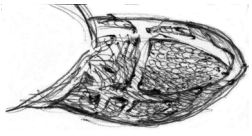

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Needed: someone to do physical work such as snow shoveling and carrying cordwood; call David 528-0228.

The Monterey News *is featuring this new column, which we hope will help people make beneficial connections. Do you have a need that someone else might help you with? Do you have a service to offer that you think would be of assistance to someone else? If so, please be in touch with me, Liz Goodman (liz@goodman.md or 413-637-4242), and I'll see to its posting in the next month's edition. Thanks!*

Free Hockey Clinics at Monterey Ice Rink

Coach Peter Poirier is holding free hockey clinics for players of all levels, ages 10–14, from 9–10:30 am every Saturday during skating season. The lessons/games will be at the Monterey skating rink behind the fire station off Route 23 near Monterey center. Parents can watch from the heated locker room inside the rink. All players need helmets. Hockey sticks and some skates are available at the rink.

—Monterey Parks Commission

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Monterey Library Notes

On Saturday, February 9, at 10:30 am, Denise Andrus will be reading a Valentine story and leading the kids in a craft. See you there!

It's time for the state budget—the governor has released his budget and the legislature will be spending the next few months working on it. Here are some interesting figures that may interest library supporters. Since 2001 state funding to libraries has decreased by 37 percent. More people use public libraries each year than attend the entire seasons of the Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, and the Celtics. The entire line item of the budget from the state is less than one-tenth of 1 percent. Direct state aid funding to libraries is to the amount of $1.05 per resident. There has been a 56 percent decrease in state funding to library technology since 2001; 14.3 million items were delivered through the state wide interlibrary loan service.

Our legislators in western Massachusetts are on board and know that the state budget does make a difference in the quality of library services. Our small libraries benefit from buying cooperatives, technical advice, and, most importantly, the delivery service as well as our state aid payment. They know we would not be able to approach the level of service that we provide without this assistance.

Representative Smitty Pignatelli recently made an interesting point: in many other parts of the state the libraries are not the community centers that they are here in the west. Libraries are more able to stand on their own without help from the state—so many of the other legislators do not hear from the patrons in the same way our legislators do. So if you support the libraries you can do all of us a big favor by getting friends or relatives from the other side of the Connecticut River, the further east the better, to ask their legislators to support the library budget.

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

Town Skating Party Feb. 18

The Monterey Parks Commission will host the annual skating party on Monday, February 18 (Presidents Day), from 1-3 pm at the firehouse pavilion skating rink. This year a DJ has been hired to keep the spirits high, and, as always, games, hotdogs, hot cocoa, coffee, candy, and fun will offer something for everyone. Prizes will be given out this year too.

It should be fun—let's just hope Mother Nature decides to keep us cold enough until then.

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Thanks from Bidwell House Museum

Thanks to this wonderful community, the Bidwell House Museum celebrated an excellent twenty-second season as the Berkshires' colonial history museum. Visitors from around the country came to the end of Art School Road all season, and the workshops, talks, and walks drew more people than ever. Many of you enjoyed the two fundraising parties and supported the museum with your financial contributions. Thank you!

We are particularly pleased to be able to offer programs for school children, with the education program for local elementary schools and the internship program for high school students. The Monterey Kindergarten explored the museum on their visit in June. Seven Monterey youths held internships at the Bidwell House last summer: Charlotte Lindsay, Isabel Lindsay, Gabriella Makuc, Joseph Makuc, Justin Makuc, Sophie Weil-Roth, and Siobhanne Pope (granddaughter of Gige O'Connell).

Highlights of the year were the two free community events: Township No. 1 Day in July, with historic craft demonstrations, the baking contest, live music, guided walks, talks, and games, and Pumpkin Fest in October. Much local talent was seen, including Monterey musicians Eric Martin and Stephen Enoch. George Emmons led a walk exploring the fascinating story of the Native Americans. Rob Hoogs guided a history walk of the Royal Hemlock Trail. The Monterey Historical Society has lent an exhibit of antique tools and displayed a beautiful collection of historic photos.

The Bidwell House Museum is grateful for the gifts of time, skills, and resources by members of the community. Whether as a volunteer with the Garden Angels, on a benefit committee, as a program participant, or as a member of the board of directors, Monterey residents are the museum's strongest supporters. The museum could not thrive without you. Thanks go to the Monterey Cultural Council and Select Board for your support of Township No. 1 Day, our programs, and interns. Not least, the museum is grateful to the Monterey Highway Department for taking care of Art School Road, even on the stormiest days.

The museum is currently planning programs for next summer. Please feel free to call or email me if you have an idea for a talk or workshop. The Bidwell grounds are open for walking or snowshoeing all winter—you are invited to enjoy the trails anytime.

With much gratitude,

—Barbara Palmer, Executive Director

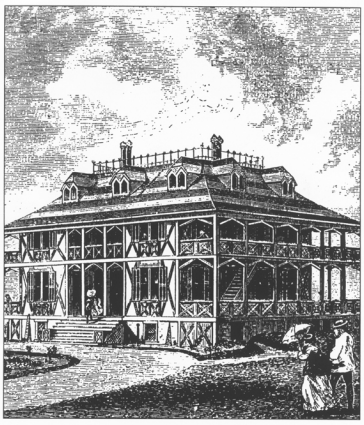
528-6888, bidwellhouse@gmail.com

Monterey Democrats to Caucus Feb. 9

Monterey Democrats will caucus to elect two delegates and one alternate delegate to the Massachusetts Democratic Party's 2013 convention. The caucus will be held on Saturday, February 9, at 10:30 am in the basement of the Monterey Meetinghouse. All registered Democrats in Monterey are eligible to meet, greet, and participate. Please attend and bring your concerns to this caucus. We need to hear from you if you would like to be a delegate, and we need your input so our delegates can voice Monterey concerns

Delegates to the 2013 Massachusetts Democratic Party Platform Convention will debate and adopt a new party platform. The convention will be held on Saturday, June 1, in the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell.

Starting this year, the Massachusetts Democratic Party will also hold a Youth Convention for high school organizers immediately following the State Convention. Application forms for high schoolers are available at MassDems.org and are due by March 31. The MassDems.org website also lists the current Democratic platform statement.



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Frank D'Amato Paintings at Knox Gallery

A Third Look: Paintings by Frank D'Amato will open at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, on Friday, March 1, with a reception on Saturday, March 2, from 7–8:30 pm.

A prolific and accomplished artist, Frank has made Monterey his home for many years. Working from "The Art Department," his gallery and studio on Tyringham Road, he produces pastels, watercolors, and large oil paintings. Frank "blames" his first-grade teacher, Miss Cummings, for his lifelong passion: when she saw her young pupil using perspective in his drawings she was amazed. Her excitement spurred him on, and he's "being doing art ever since."

Frank's finely rendered, serene landscapes are familiar to Montereyans through his popular annual greeting cards that feature the town of Monterey. Through teaching—both adult painting classes and high school art—he has shared his insights and technical skills. For his own benefit and that of his students, Frank furthered his knowledge of Western art through study at Harvard University, as well as through visits to European and English art museums and historical sites, thanks to the sabbatical he received. Frank has been active in professional and community organizations, including the Monterey Arts Council. He holds degrees from Massachusetts College of Art and Columbia University Teachers College.

"Monterey Center" (acrylic) by Frank D'Amato.

Frank reflects that "art is more than simply fixing in place what the eye sees; it is the creation of images that emphasize and reveal to others what inspired the work. For the eye to really see takes more than a second look—with a third look the inspiration begins to be revealed."

The exhibit will run from March 1 through March 30 and can be viewed during library hours.

❊

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

Each of Us Can Make a Difference

Here's another perspective on shared birthdays: I'm old enough to remember when Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays were celebrated independently, each on its own actual date. The school days building up to February 12 and February 22 were then each an opportunity for the mainstream culture's patriotic fervor to be passed from one generation to the next, as well as just plain fun. Lots of construction paper feature in those memories; perhaps I was a child who was easy to please.

None of us kids realized, of course, that sharing cultural mythology with the youngsters is part of a human tradition even more—far more—ancient than this country. None of us realized how far the severed cherry tree and the tiny axe strayed from historical truth, nor how cannily Honest Abe had to steer his ship of state into new amendment waters (see the current film *Lincoln*). We did, however, thoroughly celebrate that each one of those birthdays was important enough to be its own day off from school.

I'm not sure if my gratitude for living in this wild, wonderful experiment called democracy was rooted in, or simply nourished by, those snowy red-white-and-blue holidays. Probably "nourished by," since I grew up in a politically active family and had relatives who shared with me their vital understanding of history as story. As a result, despite the dry and deadly lists of facts that were themselves too often the history curriculum, I recognized history as real events that happened to real people. And because I knew history as story, I knew I—and we—make a difference. I didn't—we don't—have to run for office, become famous, or ante up for one or another lobby. What we have to do sounds easy, but is actually a challenge. One of the best ways to make a difference is to care, even in an off-election year. That means to pay genuine attention, to stay awake to the calling of the union of mind and heart, to refuse to use the easy exit door marked, "Cynic." And then it means to cast a vote.

All politics aside, that perspective's a vital gift. It's one we can all share with those who'll be caretaking this country when you and I have, like Abe and George, passed into history. Yes, we're all harder for the national public to recognize than either Abe or George. But even if none of us is ever featured in a black-on-white construction-paper silhouette framed with red and blue, each one of us can make a difference.

—Mary Kate Jordan

ॐ

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Part 5: Corashire Rd. to Hartsville

Prepared by Barbara Swann for the Monterey Historical Society

Let us go toward Great Barrington and take the third road to the left. Notice the lovely scroll-work on the house on the corner. See the oxen in the field, reminding us of bygone days. Look for wild life in the water hole a little further on our, right. Still farther on the left, observe the heavy growth of trees on the bank. Look for arbutus here, though much of it has been recently removed.

Next, we see a barn. Back of this, the foundation of another where stood the first silo built in Monterey. It was rectangular in shape. Look for its foundation in the cellar hole.

Now we see a house on the left. Its owner forged part of the huge links in the great chain swung across the Hudson River during the American Revolution. Its purpose was to prevent British war ships from going up the river toward Albany

Here was built the first spring wagon made in Monterey. It was constructed to carry two thousand pounds. Every Sunday, the builder was accustomed to carry an old neighbor with him. When the aged man saw the new wago*n,* he refused to ride in it, fearing that it would not carry his weight.

It has long been a custom for any resident of Monterey who is married privately to put up cigars in some public place to appease his fellow citizens. Failure to do this subjects one to a possible "horning" as it is called hereabouts—a sort of callithumpian serenade.

One evening a bride was brought secretly to this house, her future home. Alas, the news spread and a horning was inevitable. A crowd gathered with cylinder saws suspended on crowbars, horns, drums, devil's fiddles, and anything that would make a noise, No one came to the door or window. All was dark and so quiet that the house seemed to be vacant.

Logging in Monterey, ca. 1920 (photo courtesy Monterey Historical Society).

As the crowd was about to disperse someone spied a feather of smoke from the chimney. At once some men climbed up on the roof and put boards over the chimney top. Soon the house was so full of smoke that the bride and groom were forced to open the doors and permit the uninvited guests to enter.

A devil's fiddle was made by using a large wooden box and a plank. The edges of the box were well rosined, as was the plank. The plank was used as the bow and the box as the fiddle. The result was a loud rasping noise with a vibration felt, often, to the tips of one's toes. ॐ

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2013 January Wildlife Report

Early in the month, when it was 20° F on Beartown Road, Ed Salsitz saw a little winged insect on the snow.

I looked it up and think it is a caddisfly. Still in the first week of January, Jody Soules reported that she had been hearing about "huge flocks" of redpolls at feeders on Sandisfield Road, Hupi Road, and Blue Hill Road. She hears about bird sightings from the customers at her store in Great Barrington where she carries birdseed. At her home in Hartsville, Jody had a barred owl hunting a squirrel on January 1, at 10:30 am. The big bird later sat in a tree "while chickadees danced all around him. Then two crows came and mobbed him away from the feeder area." Kate Ryan had a flock of more than sixty redpolls at her place on Blue Hill Road on January 9.

Jody Soules also tells us that her customers have been seeing tree sparrows under the feeders, and Glynis Marsh may have seen quite a big flock of these in late December, unless of course this was one of the first waves of redpolls hitting town.

We had more than one barred owl here on Hupi Road about 11:00 pm on January 25. There was considerable hooing and haw-ing in the big maple by our woodshed.

On January 24, Mo Banner and her dog Cookie saw a "big male Moose" in Beartown State Forest. Mo exclaimed, "MOOSE!" and waved her arms hoping her companions some distance away would get their cameras in action. In the end, everyone got to see the tracks, at least. Speaking of missed or nearly missed photos, Mo also saw "a fisher in perfect silhouette running in and out of crevices around the snow-covered pond" at her house. She did get a photo, as the fisher was leaving.

Maureen Banner's fisher, leaving.

Here on the new skift of snow covering the ice on our brook, we have the perfect prints of a mink following the frozen waterway up.

Send me your wildlife news and views. Many thanks.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385, bmca@berkshire.net

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Recent Acquisitions at Monterey Library

DVD

4 Film Favorites (CL)
Bud & Lou (CL)
Downton Abbey Season 3 (BR)
Frankenweenie (PG)
Here's Lucy (TV)
Hopeful Notes (UNR)
Seal Team Six (TV)
Superman, *Batman Double Feature* (PG-13)
The Love Section (UNR)
Thomas & Sarah (BR)
Wire in the Blood (TV)

Adult Fiction

Return to Prior's Ford, Evelyn Hood
The Fall of the Stone City, Ismail Kadare
Truth in Advertising, John Kenney
Here I Go Again, Jen Lancaster

Adult Nonfiction

Physics in Mind, Werner R. Loewenstein
The Horse in My Garage and Other Stories, Patrick F. McManus
Hawthorne's Habitations, Robert Milder
The Scientific Sherlock Holmes, James F. O'Brien
The Day My Brain Exploded: A True Story, Ashok Rajamani
Sewing Solutions, Nicole Vasbinder
Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology, ed. Chris Bolgiano

Audio Books

The Black Box, Michael Connelly

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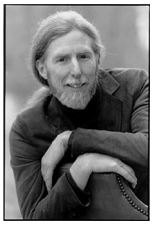

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a Christmas tale

dark nights, bright lights
moon's glow burning hole in sky
will we ever see that again?
all of us together eyes upwards

was it more amazing than
the group we gathered
fast forwarded by one generation
what was his is now his child's

a white Christmas and a full house
grandson on my tractor
just as I had imagined
I could see his future for one split second

then there was the princess
no one gets in her way!
she'll take what she wants
with her smile or her roar

a few days or minutes
filled with excitement and commotion
then gone quite
echoes remain

young fertile women
optimistic and confident men
the world is theirs
we turn it over now

is it better than when it was ours
probably not
we tried, we fought, we believed
but we just couldn't keep it from rusting.

—Bob Hirsch

One More Girl Child (delight)

it bites, this cruel January night
full of old stars and a half drunk moon
surely wild, gave us one more girl child
full of promise and not a day too soon
daughters and granddaughters in these quarters,
even sons, are dreamt, wrought, and treasured
not mine, oh well but what the hell!
with the young only, delight is measured
and of delight, this bitter winter's night
enjoin the real work, inner explorations
provide crystals to gaze upon, not pistols
for all, though small or great, have their stations
tiny girl child from the cosmic wilds
in her emanation or decline
holds the mirror for all far and all dear
no amount of horror can quell delight

—R. Zukowski
(for Isla and for all
in Newtown, CT, and beyond)

Myself when young

Dry-eyed a full night
and a day
only the bitter stinging
when I think of you –
not so the heavens
which at the sound of your name
have burst into tears.

—A. O. Howell

February

Snow blind sky, burns with February's fire
December's hat of darkness shed for new attire

Here's the way that spring came
Early in the year
Heralded by song birds, announcing soft but clear
Banishing the ice ghosts, welcoming the sun
Letting earthly mortals know spring has just begun

Unsure spring is fickle, show storms and much rain
Yet as the sun smiles warmly, spring begins again.

—Christine Goldfinger

Moon Shadows

The Moon Shadows bring the light,
they bring the dark, cold light of night.
The Moon Beams play, and dance
with the clouds that touch the trees.
They dance around the top of dainty sugar maples,
reaching for the dark moon.
Many glittering stars wander
around the dancing pearl white light.
Clouds shift to, and fro,
for they know where to go in the Moon Shadows.
A giant white diamond in the sky.

—Charlotte Micklewright
Grade 3, New Marlborough Central School

Flirt

(inspired by winter 2011–2012)

She made a brief appearance, to reveal
the soft white beauty for which she was known.
Yet when she offered me the merest glance
my hope that she would stay was overthrown.
At times, there were some signs she was around,
but then, again, she'd quickly draw away;
swirling out of reach with sly disdain,
her gauzy skirts exciting my dismay.
Now that she is gone I yearn no more,
so frustrating was her coquettish game.
Her steadier successor should appeal;
normality – predictable, if tame.
That shameless flirt risked losing our respect,
confounding what we'd naturally expect.

—Ed Schur

Winter Haiku

The warm bodies
of Icelandic horses challenge
the Arctic cold.

—Esther Heffernan

Green Beavers

Back in the day we spoke of "whitewashing," and it was about a paintbrush on a long wooden handle, with a bucket of lime and chalk. This was the way folks on a limited budget ("poor folks") put some paint up on their interiors or exteriors. Whitewash functioned both to look clean and to be clean: it was antibacterial. Maybe even more important, it lit up the interior the way white walls do. Some of those limited budgets did not allow for more windows or more lights, so if you had an adobe or a log interior and few windows, you could get more light for your buck with whitewash.

Now, way later, we have the word "greenwash." This is not about paint buckets and green interiors; this is about our minds. It is how we "see things," meaning understand or frame them. Lately whitewash is also about this. A "whitewash job" is one that makes the story look better. We do not call it a "blackwash" or a "brownwash" or a "yellowwash" because those colors just do not mean Better to us. Am I writing about racism, about color? Maybe I am.

Really, I want to write about beavers. To some folks they are just plain trouble. They are not like us. They walk on four legs, don't speak English, and give us grief on the bottom line. They make our property devalue. By this I mean they gnaw down trees in our yard so that when we want to sell the place we have to knock a little off for lack of scenic shade trees. Or they dam up the brook and we get water over the driveway, or we worry that we *will* get this, so we have to hire someone to get out there with a shovel or something to take down the level on the beaver dam. This costs us. Plus, it does not last, in that the beavers come back and we'll have to hire the shovel again, so look at the bottom line, now, will ya.

Why beavers are up my snoot just now is that I have been getting phone calls. My human neighbors are out and about and they are observant. They have noticed beavers, but they have also noticed a human response in the form of trappers and such. Some folks are more concerned about the traps than anything else. They see a big spring-loaded thing, right where they walk their dog every day and where they might even walk their grandchildren. They see this thing could pop shut and squash a kid or a dog. No doubt they don't even like to think of it squashing a beaver. So they call me to worry and to find out if this is legal, or moral. They have their own feeling that it is neither, plus it is nothing they want to be funding with their tax dollars. If this is on town land, and hired by town agencies, they want it not to be in their name. And they want it just plain not to be.

I say I will look into it. I make a phone call. I wait and wait because state agencies could use more funding and more live human beings on the end of the phone. After a few days and long waits on the

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Menu Line, plus messages left in hope of a call-back, I get to ask a real someone about beavers and those traps.

I learn that beavers are a Renewable Resource. They have a season, which means there is a certain time when anyone with the right equipment and paperwork can go out and cream them and make a little money.

Ah. What do we mean by Renewable Resource? We mean that we can snuff them for a payoff and they will come back to be snuffed again. Well, not the same actual individual. No. THAT beaver will not be back, at least not as a beaver. Maybe as molecules of former beaver. Maybe after being "euthanized," this beaver will be back as atoms of hydrogen and carbon and such. These will combine to make any kind of thing. This is recycling, in the current jargon, or even "renewed."

What really makes a beaver renewable is that it can reproduce, just like you and me. We are living animals, and though we will be snuffed, at some time and by something or someone, there will be more of us coming along. If there were a nickel on our heads, we would then be known as a Renewable Resource. Resource means we are useful; well, not really useful so much as profitable. If you could sell our hides, we could get an actual season, like beavers. Beaver hides are "prime" from November 1 to April 15. This gives beavers their season, the time when their renewable selves are good resources because someone who cares to get out in the chilly months with traps could make a buck off the hides once the critter is dead and separated from its pelt. It's not so clear that we would have a season, since there might not be enough money in our pelts to get folks out at any time of year with the right traps and licensing. For some reason, euthanasia for folks is a whole other can of worms from the one for beavers. Seems like greenwash does not work on us so much.

We buy the idea of renewable. This seems like something that will keep on keeping on. Who will do the renewing? In the case of the beavers, they will renew their own selves by having babies and outwitting our extermination efforts. When we speak of renewable resources, we do not mean fossil fuels and such. These things are finite in supply and one day our grandchildren will run out, and maybe even we will, and heaven help us then. When we speak of renewables (it is a noun, now) we mean those things we need and can use and sell and not run out of. Like sunshine, for instance. Right now, I can't think of any others, but I know there must be some. Thing about the sun, it is so far away, it is safe from us for now. Unlike the beavers, or even our own selves.

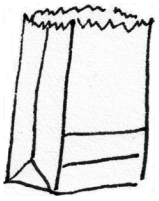
—Bonner J. McAllester

Cultural Council Accepting Grant Proposals

The Monterey Cultural Council has distributed $6009 in state and town funds to individuals and institutions that submitted successful proposals to the council. This year we will be supporting programs on history, art, nature, music, dance, theater, and crafts. We will support programs in school and theaters for children, and local events in our library and Bidwell House Museum, community spaces, and other iconic Berkshires cultural institutions

We still have a small amount of unexpended town funds and anticipate additional funds later this year. If you have a talent or knowledge to share that will enrich our community in an experience of art, history or science, please let us know what type of program you would like to create. Do not hesitate to request more information from Pat Salomon, drpatsalomon@aol.com

—Pat Salomon



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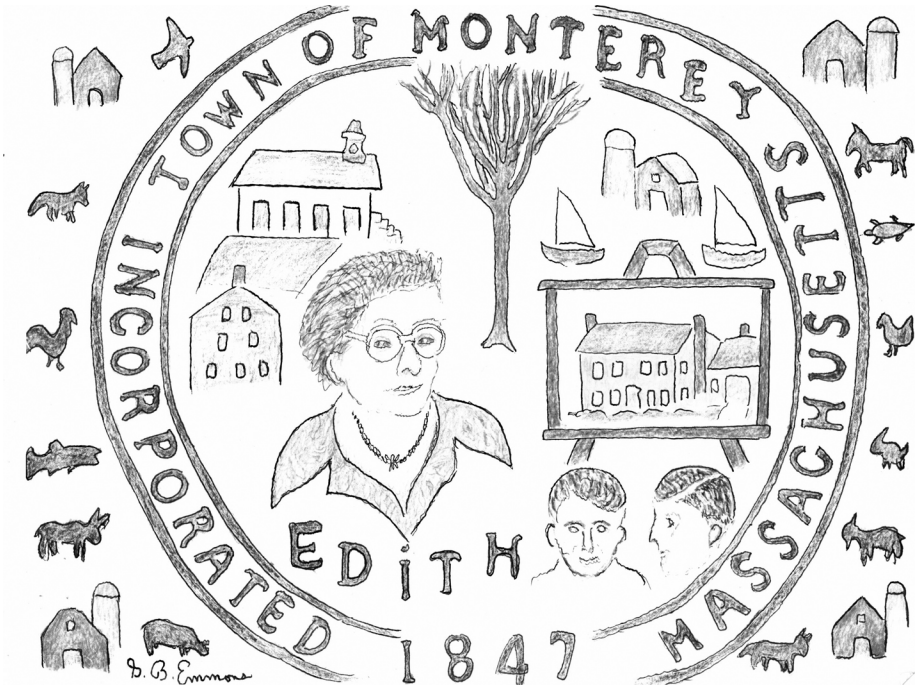
Town Legacy Of Edith Wilson

Nearly twenty years ago Monterey lost a leading citizen, Edith Lavinia Wilson (1913–1995). However, her artistic and civic legacy, as well as her generous endowment for the town, lives on to this very day. Edith was a graduate of The Chicago Art Institute and with her friend Marjorie McLaughlin founded The Gallery House in Chicago to show the work of young artists in the area. After it burned down in 1942, they both moved here to restore the 1820 house on New Marlborough Road, on the present 27 acres of the proposed Community Center.

They both had known Raymond Ensign, Director of The Chicago Art Institute, also proprietor of the Monterey Brookbend Inn as well as director of Monterey Summer School for the Arts. Edith subsequently became the first art editor of the *Monterey News* and designed its masthead as well as the town seal. For the town's sesquicentennial anniversary the Monterey Quilters incorporated her seal into a quilt with an animated design and embellished border. Today the colorful composite quilt proudly hangs in Town Hall along with Edith's painting of her residence for fifty years.

In addition to painting and sculpting, Edith had architectural interests and was involved in the design, building, or renovation of several houses, as well as design of Town Hall and the General Knox Wing of the Monterey Library. In government she founded an elected town Planning Board,



the first in the commonwealth, and also served on the School Board, Board Of Appeals, Historical Commission, Finance Committee, and as a Registrar of Voters. Her most significant endowments to the town were the McLaughlin Wilson Scholarship Fund to help Monterey high school graduates with higher education and the twenty-seven acres of her own residence, including the nearby Bally Gally house, for future town purposes.

Over the years the scholarship fund, handled by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation in Sheffield, has enabled ninety deserving Monterey students to achieve and complete higher education with a total of $1.4 million in grants to date. Her residential and property endowment reached its first fruition recently with the establishment of a Community Garden and improved driveway and parking access. The town rents out the Bally Gaily residence, helping to pay for frequent substantial repairs and upkeep.

Edith also left $50,000 to maintain her residence, but time took its toll and one wing had to be torn down ten years ago. What remains to be done to her main structure is outlined in six stages in the recent Monterey Community Center pamphlet. The pamphlet clearly points out that the rewards of potential cultural, educational, recreational, and social activities such as art classes, musical gatherings, meetings, play groups, exercise classes would far outweigh the estimated cost of $165,000. To their credit, the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House are looking through the window of Edith's vision of the municipal future.

As Edith's legacy lives on, so does her lasting memory with both old and new dedicated friends. When the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House achieve their goal, Edith's legacy will enable the Monterey community to have some of its finest hours.

—George B. Emmons

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"Garden Gustation"
What's Cooking from Monterey Gardens and Farms

Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary states: "the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste"

Back to My Roots

February: the Red month . . .everywhere you go, Valentines Day seems to color the month. So, what better month to talk about the deep, dark, earthy delicious Red vegetable, beets. We love beets, particularly roasted, but served in a salad with Monterey Chevre and maple-candied pecans they are just divine too. Another way to consume our almost favorite root crop is pickled beets. I usually can a few jars at the end of the summer, but this past fall was just too busy and I didn't get to it. We bagged up the beets and stored them in the fridge. Finally after the holidays, I got to make our pickled beets. We canned fourteen pints, enough to get us to the next harvest, I hope.

I planted three long rows of Detroit Dark Red beets last summer. The seeds were left over from a previous year so I planted them thickly in case the germination was spotty. The germination, however, turned out not to be spotty, and I ended up thinning the babies and eating the greens. The deep green and burgundy of the beet leaves was just beautiful. They were filling out nicely . . . until I noticed one row was looking a little thin—the deer had made a visit and recognized the food value in our beets! But I fixed their wagon by covering the remainder of the row with row cover. Of course this didn't make weeding any easier but it left the beets for us. I'm afraid we are now on the local deer map and am spending some time thinking about fencing options. UGH!

This simple pickled-beet recipe has been handed down to me from my Grandmother Selma Swanson, my mother's mother, the Swedish side of my family. A favorite and common Scandinavian lunch includes open-faced sandwiches. Thinly sliced buttered whole grain rye bread topped with various meats and accoutrements. Homemade liver pate, thinly sliced salmon, cold cuts, or hard-boiled egg topped with a variety of pickles, sweet and sour, cucumber, and/or beets. One of my favorites was a sliced hard-boiled egg topped with pickled beets. Now I "settle" for an egg-salad sandwich with my pickled beets on the side. Delicious.

Gram Swanson's Pickled Beets

(with directions from *Putting Food By)*

Underlined ingredients are our own or locally obtained.

This recipe makes about 7 pints.
Beets: roughly 5# trimmed
2 cups white or cider vinegar
2 cups sugar
2 cups water

Wash beets; leave taproot and a bit of stem. Boil until tender. Dunk in cold water to handle; trim, strip off skins, and slice. While beets are cooking, make a pickling syrup of equal parts of vinegar, sugar, and water and bring to a boil.

Fill clean, hot jars with hot beet slices, leaving ½" of headroom. Add boiling pickling syrup, leaving ½"of headroom; adjust lids. Process in a boiling-water bath for 10 minutes for pints.

Pickled beets are ready to eat the next day, or save them for your favorite Valentine.

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com
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From an animated holiday card by Tristian Goik, inspired by the living mannequins at the Holiday Stroll in Great Barrington.

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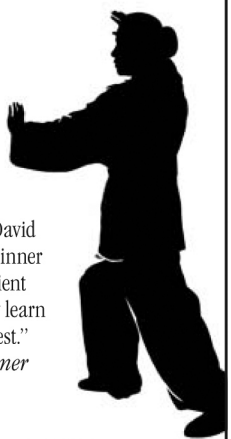

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Private Dollars, Public Systems

Despite having been at my new job for over a year, I haven't really focused on the job or the organization. I've been wrestling with a frustration that concerns good public policy, the presence of private dollars, the challenges of system reform, and the influence of political ideology, particularly as it relates to our educational system.

The stream of consciousness goes something like this: private dollars are here to stay, but, public systems should not be run in the business model of efficiency, profit, and bottom lines. Business interests, corporate money, and philanthropic dollars are deeply imbedded in our public systems and are unlikely to disappear anytime soon, from education to health care and certainly politics. The competition model may increase efficiency—depending on the customer and the goods consumed—but it does not necessarily serve a broader citizenry, and, in fact, there are always guaranteed winners and losers.

While I support efficiency, I do not accept the notion that private competition, when introduced into public systems, will guarantee outcomes that broadly benefit our society. But, given the world we live in, that brings me back to the question, what then is the appropriate role for the private dollars that are here to stay? We must still acknowledge and contend with the influence of private dollars and the interests of those who contribute the money. This tension is closely related to the dynamics in elections and the political system with the pervasive presence of private (or corporate) dollars.

Here are a few examples. First, the idea of choice and competition as exemplified by the rise of charter schools. Charters were originally conceived to be learning laboratories, whose best practices would scale up to public schools. They are public schools, funded by tax dollars, but operate outside the public system, often under private for-profit management. The assumption is that they offer choice, create competition, and force public schools to improve in order to satisfy public consumers. Most charters, on the aggregate, perform no better than their traditional public counterparts, and most students who attend have parents who are able to take the initiative to enroll their children. Finally, charters may refuse to accept students with special needs or English-language learners, while public schools are required by law to educate any child who arrives at their door.

Second, you may read a lot about teacher evaluations in the news, certainly with the strike last fall in Chicago. While taxpayers have a right to information about how government—on all levels—spends public dollars, accountability has its limits. First, the major tests in this country cover English, math, and sometimes science. However, most schools teach other subjects, so if you measure a student's progress in a given year, how do you best separate one teacher's influence on that students' growth from another as part of the value-added model? What's more, what happens to the teachers who teach subjects that have no standardized tests? And a test given on a specific day is a snapshot in time—what if a student is simply having a bad day, or what if the student goes to school hungry or has parents going through a divorce? That student will likely not test to the highest extent of his or her ability. Finally, someone once said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. We've collected data for a decade, and yet changes in practice are not producing significant results. Perhaps it's time to reassess.

You need accountability, but you also need a system that rewards good practices, not just punishes schools for failing. You need an extra commitment to young teachers and continued professional development, and you shouldn't have standardized test scores count for such high percentages in teacher evaluations. For that matter, you shouldn't have salaries tied to student performance as measured by tests. Teachers deserve professional respect and a respectable salary, but teachers' incentives won't necessarily change student performance. Finally, the achievement gap is as much socioeconomic as racially based now. Universal pre-K will help ensure that all children nationwide begin school prepared to succeed. I could go on. But the bottom line is that the major debates in the news are missing nuance.

A final point about the politics: The Republican or Conservative approach when it comes to education—no real surprise— is that they like small government and decentralization. I do support this to a point, because with some 14,000 school districts, every community and district is different. That said I'm not ready to support abolishing the US Department of Education. The Democrats aren't without fault though. They are prioritizing many

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policies that aren't research based, and they are squarely in the pro–charter and competition camp. They are also in favor of tying teacher evaluation to test scores.

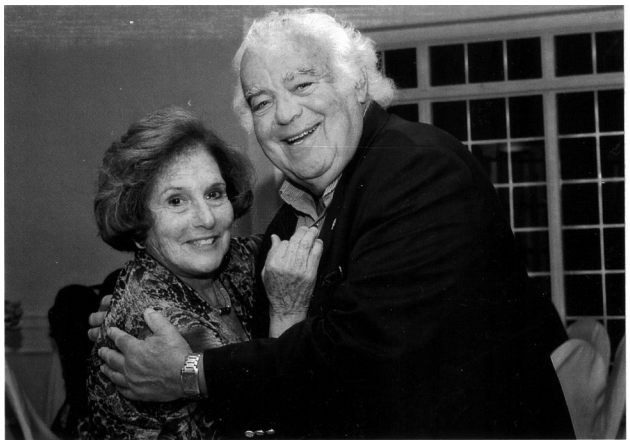
In closing, it's time to bring this musing back to where I started. No matter what policy approach headlines the news, it's valuable to question the groups supporting it. It's important to ask where the money is coming from—private business interests have outside agendas, but foundation money deserves equal scrutiny because they are not always interested in funding best practices. Indeed, many organizations are wary of criticizing foundation research and studies for fear of losing potential funding opportunities for themselves. Such avoidance allows many studies—with their agendas—to remain entirely legitimate and gain the support of political parties, politicians, and mainstream media.

Speaking of media, there's private money in reporting. We all know this, although examples vary. Journalists are not by nature experts on policy. Hence, it matters which experts they talk to and which conferences they attend to brush up on the issues. Who funds such "educational events"? Reporting is likely never going to give you all the details you need in order to make informed judgments as a citizen, voter, parent, or taxpayer, especially when one considers the vast complexity of public systems.

We should all stand for a robust public education system, as it is the cornerstone of democracy. And for those of you who consider yourself to be progressive, aligning yourself with Democratic Party reforms does not guarantee you are supporting pro–public-education policies. There is no silver bullet when it comes to public education, yet public officials have no problems assuring us they will fix the system if elected. If only it were that easy.

—Tarsi Dunlop

Mickey and Mike Freundlich Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Mickey and Mike Freundlich of Bend, Oregon, and Monterey (formerly of Sudbury, Massachusetts, for forty-three years) celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in December. They were married on December 23, 1962 in Miami Beach, Florida, at the Eden Rock Hotel.

The Freundlichs have three children and their spouses: Marc Freundlich of Dallas, Texas; Mitchell, and wife Kristen, Freundlich of Framingham, Massachusetts, and Margey and Honza Vrbata of Bend, Oregon. Their four grandchilderen are Talia and Taylor Freundlich and Peter and Kala Vrbata.

When the Freundlichs were residents in Sudbury, they were members of Congregation B'nai Torah, Broomstones Curling Club, and Marlborough Country Club. Mike Freundlich (1980) was CEO of 5MPlus Inc., which owned and operated Kwik-Kopy printing of Westborough, which later changed its name to Accela Graphics Of New England. His son Mitch took over the company as CEO when Mike officially retired in 2010.

Mickey Freundlich has been licensed with the Greater Boston Real Estate Board as a real estate broker since 1973 and worked at W. G. Savage realtors (Wayland, Mass.) and N. B. Taylor Assoc., lnc. (Sudbury, Mass.).

In retirement since 2010 Mike and Mickey are busy in Bend volunteering, at St. Charles Hospital, High Desert Museum, and Children's Vision Screening, and have a membership at Awbrey Glen Country Club and Widgy Creek Golf Club. They belong to Temple Beth Tikva and Newcomers Club of Bend.

During the summer, they enjoy their summer home on Lake Garfield in Monterey and volunteer at the Tanglewood concerts in Lenox.

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Letter from Reed College

An Unorthodox Solution to Gun Control

In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook tragedy, numerous other mass shootings, and 9,960 gun homicides per year (as of 2009 statistics), gun control has come to the forefront of the national political conversation. There is some legislative precedent to consider when drafting a new approach to gun control. In 1994, lawmakers approved a crime bill with a partial ban on assault weapons. In this bill, the term "assault weapon" had a convoluted definition. It included many specific models, all semiautomatic rifles and pistols with detachable magazines and two or more characteristics from a menu, and all semiautomatic shotguns with two or more characteristics from a menu that included detachable magazines. In short, it was a loophole-laden mess. Manufacturers simply tweaked their designs to get around the bill, rendering it largely ineffective.

Now, Dianne Feinstein, one of the 1994 architects, is introducing a beefed-up version. According to Feinstein, this revision "strengthens the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban and various state bans by moving from a 2-characteristic test to a 1-characteristic test; eliminating the easy-to-remove bayonet mounts and flash suppressors from the characteristics test; and banning firearms with 'thumbhole stocks' and 'bullet buttons' to address attempts to 'work around' prior bans."

While Feinstein's revamped bill is much less porous than its predecessor, the resurrection of a blanket ban on assault weapons is misguided. First, banning varieties of guns that are commonly used by responsible owners for hunting and recreation is unfair and only reinforces the trope that liberals want to confiscate guns and infringe on Second-Amendment rights. Second, a sweeping assault weapons ban has no prospect of passing and would expend valuable political capital. Instead, we must push for a simple, entirely loophole-free bill that respects rights while encouraging responsibility. What might such a bill entail?

1. A complete ban on the sale, transfer, or import of fully automatic weapons (heavily regulated but still available) and clips of more than 10 bullets. Neither of these is necessary for hunting, recreation, or self-defense.

2. Universal point-of-sale background checks and strengthened databases concerning criminal records and debilitating mental illness.

3. A nationwide requirement that citizens pass a gun-safety class and obtain a license in order to purchase semiautomatic weapons.

4. Finally, the aforementioned unorthodox solution: requiring that all new semiautomatic weapons include a GPS chip that locks those guns from firing outside licensed gun ranges or public lands where hunting is permitted. This would create high-tech American jobs and would respect the rights of gun owners while helping to end the threat of mass shootings.

—Jonah Carlson

This article originally appeared on www.pragmaticprogressives.org. You can submit your own proposal on gun control at www.pragmaticprogressives.org/submit.

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Story
"Giggy"

The bone-tired little grocer swept the front steps of his corner store as his shadow danced on the brick sidewalk before him. After a few passes he leaned on his tattered broom to view the raucous Saturday night scene at Yarmul's Tavern, three doors away, across the street. Feisty polka music boomed through the tavern walls while an overflow crowd spilled onto the porch to celebrate the end of their six-day work week with boilermakers, the favored brew of western Pennsylvania coal miners in the post-war '40's. For half a buck the drinker got "an Imp & an Arn," a shot of Imperial brand whiskey and a pint of Iron City Beer. He would then perform a "depth charge," dropping the whiskey, shot glass and all, into the beer, and, if a real man, down the entire potion in one draught. It took only a couple of these to separate the imbiber from his senses. Even a champion drinker knew he'd had enough when he couldn't feel the shot glass as it banged into his nose.

As the grocer watched, the screen door at Yarmul's swung open and a lone figure lurched out, squawking loudly about being mistreated. The grocer instantly recognized Giggy Wade, an amiable black man known for his prodigious intake of any variety of intoxicating beverage. Given Giggy's unceremonious departure from the tavern, it was a fair assumption that he had stretched his credit to the limit and had been refused further service. At times such as these, Giggy had been known to turn to virtually anything with an alcohol content, including Sterno and rubbing alcohol, although the latter played havoc with his gut and would turn his lips a sickly, pasty white.

He swayed unsteadily under the halo of a street light, then spotted the grocer's backlit profile. "Hey, Vic!" he called out with a windshield wiper wave. "Wait up. I need a pack o' Camels."

The grocer pondered as Giggy's approach was heralded by the bouquet of stale beer. "Okay, Gig, but I'm just about to close up."

"Sure, Vic. I'll jus' be a minute. Lemme get m' money."

Giggy went through an elaborate pantomime of turning his pants pockets inside out, only to come up with nothing more than a pack of paper matches and the nub of a lint-covered candy bar. Then he removed his crumpled porkpie hat and ran his finger under the sweatband.

He shook his head. "Damn," he blubbered. "Looka that. I'm clean out. An' tomorrow's Sunday an' now I ain't got nothin' for the collection plate at church."

The grocer suppressed a knowing smile.

"Say, Vic," Giggy suddenly brightened. "Ya think you could len' me jus' a little for the Lord tomorrow?"

The grocer nodded soberly. "For the Lord, you say?"

"Yeah. You know. Sunday an' all."

"Uh, huh. So how much you think the Lord's gonna need?"

"Oh, I reckon 'bout four bits'll do it. An' I'll pay ya back next payday for sure."

The cash register rang as the grocer punched a key and withdrew two quarters. "Okay, Gig, here you go, and be sure to say hello to Reverend Henderson for me."

"Whazzat? Oh, yeah! The Revern'. You bet," Giggy slurred. "An' God bless you, Vic. I surely 'preciate this."

Giggy slipped the coins in his pocket, got his bearings, then wobbled down the middle of the street in the direction of Yarmul's, adjusting his hat while babbling gleefully to the rising moon.

The grocer chuckled and made one last pass with his broom. Finally he removed his starched white apron, draped it neatly over the back of his desk chair, and drew a long sigh while counting his blessings.

—David Shifrin

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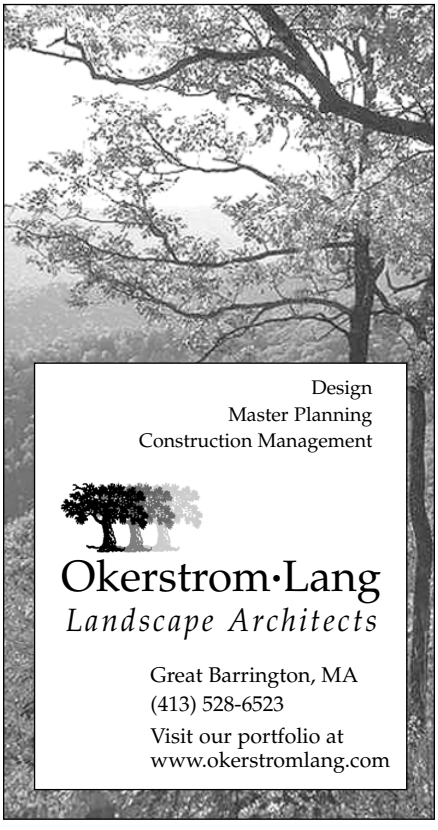


Remembering Hildegard Klara Goetze Wolff

Hildegard (Gardi) Wolff died in her sleep at The Fountains in Tucson, AZ, on January 26, 2013. She was 100 years old. Gardi had been a summer resident of Monterey since 1941.

Born February 16, 1912, in Berlin, Germany, two years before WWI, she lost her father to pneumonia when she was three months old. Her mother, who was the head of housekeeping in a Berlin state hospital, raised her alone.

As a child she was a competitive runner and later a member of a swim club. In secondary school she learned the techniques of sewing haute couture and the practical aspects of sales work as an apprentice with Aronson's of Berlin.

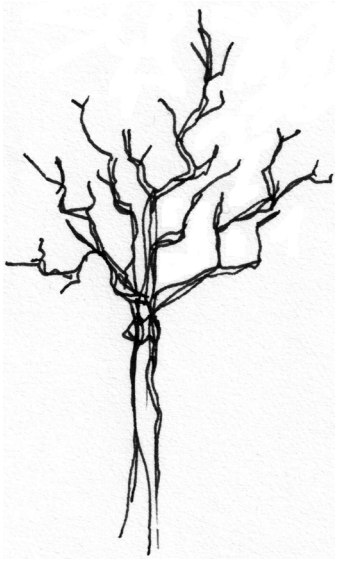
In 1930 she became a model and salesperson in Berlin and later married the designer and owner of Pelz Wolff, George Wolff.

At the age of 24, she fled alone, by train to Italy with their two children, Peter and Emanuel. In Italy she was joined by her husband, and together they escaped to the United States in December 1937.

George and Hildegard established a fur store on Madison Avenue in New York soon after their arrival in the United States. When her husband died in 1966, Hildegard continued with the business alone, creating stylish and distinguished designs of her husband's fur coats from a new location in the fur district of New York City.

In 1990, Hildegard, who had been a summer resident of Monterey since 1941, retired to California to be nearer to her grandchildren. However, she continued to return each summer to Monterey. She is survived by her son, Emanuel, of Tucson, AZ; her grandchildren: Glynnis Arbac of Istanbul, Turkey, and Monterey (in summer); Kevin Wolff and his wife, Janelle, of Mukilteo, WA; Kurt Wolff of Los Angeles, CA; Soren Wolff of Truckee, CA; George Wolff of Portland, OR; her great grandchildren: Rachael of Argentina; Emily and Noah Wolff of Los Angeles, CA; Emre and Eren Arbac of Istanbul and Monterey; and Samuel Wolff, of Mukilteo, WA; and her daughters-in-law: Dru Wolff of Mukilteo and Elizabeth Wolff of Tucson. Her other son, Peter Wolff, died in 2007.

Gardi will be buried beside her husband, George, in the family's grave at Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, N.Y.



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—Will Marsh, Editor

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Thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions in response to our annual appeal. We could not keep going without your support.

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Every Saturday during skating season: Free ice hockey clinic with Coach Peter Poirier for players ages 10–14, 10:30 am, Firehouse Pavilion skating rink.

Through February 20: Gould Farm Centennial Year Archival Exhibit, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, during library hours.

Saturday, February 2:

Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, singer-songwriter Justin Hillman, 7:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Sheffield.

Otis Chili Cookoff & Square Dance, featuring Cliff Brodeaur & the Housatonic Philharmonic, 5–8 pm, Knox Trail Inn, 1898 East Otis Road (Route 23), East Otis. Information 413-429-5504.

Wednesday, February 6: Chair Yoga, taught by Connie Wilson, 9–10 am, Monterey Library. Free to Monterey residents. For more information, call Connie 528-3798.

Saturday, February 9:

Monterey Democratic Party caucus, 10:30 am, Meetinghouse basement. See p. 7.

Valentine story and craft for kids with Denise Andrus, 10:30 am, Library.

Thursday, February 14: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Monday, February 18:

Presidents Day; Town Offices, Library closed. No Select Board meeting.

Annual Town Skating Party, 1–3 pm, Monterey Firehouse Pavilion skating rink. Sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Tuesday, February 19: Health New England Medicare Advantage Presentation, 10 am, Town Hall Meeting Room.

Wednesday, February 20: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Program by local historian Bernard Drew. Everyone welcome. See p. 3.

Monday, February 25: Adult book group will discuss *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Saturday, March 2: Opening reception for *A Third Look: Paintings by Frank D'Amato*, 7–8:30 pm. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. Exhibit runs from March 1 to March 30. See p. 8.

Thursday, March 14: Public hearing by Monterey Planning Board to get input on proposed solar-power bylaw, 7 pm, Town Hall. See p. 4.

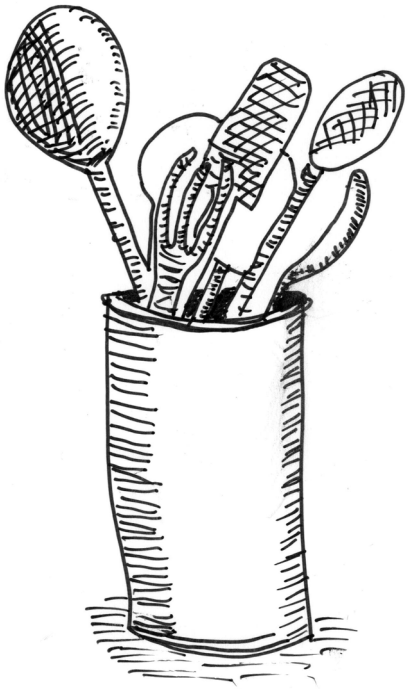
Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

The Observer
December 26 – January 25

High temp. (1/14)	46º
Low temp. (1/24)	-10°
Avg. high temp.	30.9°
Avg. low temp.	14.5°
Avg. temp.	22.7°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	3.04 in.
Snowfall	26.6 in.

Precipitation occurred on 17 days.



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Contributions from local and guest artists this month: Pat Arnow, 15, 20, 23; Rachel Arnow, 13; Maureen Banner, 4, 5, 6, 22; Frank D'Amato, 8; George Emmons, 16; Tristian Goil, 17; Bonner McAllester, 14.

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